

support means extending upstream and downstream of said separation unit to support said elongate member;

a feeder means to feed said elongate member towards and through said separation unit, said feeder means further comprising a pusher arm upstream of said separation unit, said pusher arm exerting a force on an end of said elongate metallic member distal from said separation unit to push said member towards and through the said separation unit; and

means to constrain lateral movement of said elongate metallic member passing through said separation unit said constraining means further comprising at least one pair of horizontally spaced apart guide rollers, said guide rollers being freely rotatable about a substantially vertical axis, wherein downstream of said separation unit separated parts of said elongate metallic member issuing from said separation unit are free to move laterally with respect to said cutter.

48. (Twice Amended) A process for separating cold elongated metallic members along a substantially longitudinal axis thereof, said device comprising:

a separation unit having a cutter;

support means extending upstream and downstream of said separation unit to support said elongate member;

a feeder means to feed said elongate member towards and through said separation unit, said feeder means further comprising a pusher arm upstream of said separation unit, said pusher arm exerting a force on an end of said elongate metallic member distal from said separation unit to push said member towards and through the said separation unit; and

means to constrain lateral movement of said elongate metallic member passing through said separation unit, said constraining means further comprising at least one pair of horizontally spaced apart guide rollers, said guide rollers being freely rotatable about a substantially vertical axis, wherein downstream of said separation unit separated parts of said elongate metallic member issuing from said separation unit are free to move laterally with respect to said cutter, said process comprising the steps of:

placing said elongate member on said support means of said device;

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aligning said substantially longitudinal axis of said elongate member with said cutter of said separation unit;

feeding said elongate member through said separation unit to cut said separate sections from said elongated member;

supporting said separated sections of said elongated member; and

constraining lateral movement of said elongate member in said separation unit.

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A marked up version of the claims showing the changes is enclosed.